

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of molding a ceramic sheet using a molding apparatus ~~having comprising~~ comprising an extruder of screw type including an extrusion screw and a mold arranged at the forward end portion of the extruder, wherein the ceramic material introduced into the extruder is molded into a sheet by extrusion from the mold, and wherein the mold with the ceramic material passing therethrough is divided into a plurality of transverse temperature regulated areas, ~~for each of which the temperature is regulated in the process of extrusion molding~~ the method comprising:

introducing ceramic material into the extruder;
advancing the ceramic material with the extrusion screw to the mold;
passing the ceramic material through the mold; and
regulating the temperature of said plurality of areas during the extrusion of the ceramic material from the mold,

wherein the outer diameter d of the extrusion screw and the width W of the ceramic sheet hold the relation $W \geq 3d$,

whereby wrinkling of the extrusion-molded ceramic sheet is substantially suppressed.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for molding a ceramic sheet according to claim 1, in which ~~the~~ correlation data on the molding rate of ceramic sheet to be extrusion molded is obtained by measurement ~~for the~~ a respective portion of the ceramic sheet corresponding to each area of the mold, and the temperature is regulated based on the correlation data on the molding rate thus obtained.

Claim 3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) A method for molding a ceramic sheet according to claim 1, wherein the outer diameter d of the screw built in the extrusion screw and the width W of the ceramic sheet may hold the relation $W \geq 5d$.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for molding a ceramic sheet according to claim 1, wherein the outer diameter d of the extrusion screw built in the extruder is not more than 70 mm.

6. (Original) A method for molding a ceramic sheet according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of the ceramic sheet is not more than 1.5 mm.

7. (Original) A method for molding a ceramic sheet according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of the ceramic sheet is not more than 300 μm .

8. (Original) A method for molding a ceramic sheet according to claim 1, wherein the mold includes a plurality of retractable rectification plates arranged to change the flow resistance of the ceramic material, the extrusion molding being carried out by regulating the flow resistance of the ceramic material by advancing and retracting said rectification plates while at the same time regulating the temperature of each of said areas.

Claims 9-18. (Canceled).